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TAX RELIEF: JUST DO IT

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I think some of us have forgotten that Social Security under our plan is paid for totally. Within the next 10 years, all our debt can be retired.

Mr. Speaker, tomorrow this body is going to debate a tax relief bill that will ease the penalty married couples must pay under the current Tax Code. Right now in America, married couples pay more in taxes than two single people living together. That is just plain wrong. Why should we penalize the cornerstone of our society, the American family? We ought to encourage marriage, not penalize it.

We also set aside \$1.4 trillion to protect Social Security. That is 90 percent of the surplus. President Clinton calls this, and I quote, "a gimmick to please people." I urge my colleagues, do not believe him. The President has already proposed spending billions from the surplus on bigger government. He is the one with the gimmick.

We can protect Social Security and provide relief for our families. Let us just do it.

TAX CUTS TODAY WILL HURT AMERICAN WORKERS TOMORROW

(Mr. WISE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, we are going to hear a lot today about there being a budget surplus, and that is the good news. But the surplus comes from the Social Security system. So what is the bill that is going to be on the floor today? To give an election year tax cut paid for out of using Social Security funds.

Mr. Speaker, I want a tax cut, too, for America's working families, but not by taking from Social Security.

We are going to hear about a 90-10 bill, that they are going to put 90 percent of Social Security aside where it cannot be touched. But we all know something. That is that we should not take 90 percent of Social Security to pay for anything else. We should not take 10 percent. We should not take one penny of the Social Security surplus to pay for something else. That belongs to America's retired.

I support a bill giving tax cuts but not until Social Security is preserved. In order to cut taxes today, we should not take from the benefits that American workers receive tomorrow. That is wrong.

REPUBLICANS WANT TO PRESERVE SOCIAL SECURITY FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

(Mr. KINGSTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, after 40 years of Democrat rule in the United States House of Representatives, what do we have? We have a national debt of about \$5 trillion. Year after year, deficit spending. After 3 years of Republican rule, we have a surplus.

What do we have after 40 years of Democrat rule on Medicare? A Medicare system that was going bankrupt. What do we have after 3 years of Republican rule? A Medicare system that was saved and protected on a bipartisan basis.

Now on Social Security, after 40 years of Democrat rule, what do we have? \$14 trillion that has been taken out of the Social Security trust fund and spent on roads and bridges and anything else, any special projects and wasteful spending the Democrats could dream up.

What are Republicans doing about it today? We set aside \$1.4 trillion for the Social Security trust fund. Not one dime in 40 years of Democrat rule has been set aside and protected for Social Security. It has all been taken out and backed up with a Treasury bill.

Now Republicans are taking the step to look after not just American seniors for the next election but for the next generation.

SAVE SOCIAL SECURITY FIRST

(Mr. WYNN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, we are about to engage in a momentous debate here in Congress, a debate about the future of America and about the really big issues, like saving Social Security.

On the Democratic side, we have a very simple proposition. If we have a surplus, we should use all of that surplus to preserve and save Social Security, because the baby boomers are coming. When they do, we will be insolvent. We do not have a full solution, but we do know that if we get some money into the Treasury, we ought to set it all aside to save Social Security.

Now, the Republicans have an election year gimmick. They say, let us run down here and propose a tax cut for the American people, and that way we can get elected because it is election year.

Mr. Speaker, the fact of the matter is that they are perpetuating a myth. They say it is a drain on the economy. Taxes are a terrible drain. The fact of the matter is that the economy is doing very well. Poverty is at an all-time low. Unemployment is at an all-time low. Business starts are increasing.

They say, well, taxes are a burden on the average taxpayer. Tax rates for the average American taxpayer are at the lowest point they have been since 1978. They say taxes are a disproportionate

part of the gross domestic product. That is only because revenues increased because more people are working.

The fact of the matter is we should save Social Security first.

MAINTAIN TRUST IN SOCIAL SECURITY

(Mr. DOGGETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, so much has been said in recent days about truth and about trust. How ironic it is that at a time the Nation is focused on truth and trust with one person, that the Republican leadership here in the House should choose that week to come in and challenge the Social Security trust fund, the very week the videotapes are released. It is no coincidence that they choose this time to violate the trust that millions of working Americans have placed in the Social Security trust fund.

With an election year gimmick, they propose to take monies that we were able to develop through the balanced budget agreement and use those monies for other purposes than for strengthening Social Security so that it will be there for future generations.

Mr. Speaker, remember how hard it was to get a balanced budget agreement? Initially, the Republicans wanted to take money from Medicare, millions of dollars from Medicare to fund tax breaks. We were able to overcome that, and we will also overcome this challenge to Social Security.

TAX CUT BILL WILL HELP EVERY SENIOR CITIZEN

(Mr. SOLOMON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I am getting ready to bring up the tax cut bill, but I sit here and the one thing I will not miss when I retire January 1 is all this rhetoric about Social Security.

I represent Hyde Park, New York, the home of Franklin Delano Roosevelt. In 1933, he established this rainy day fund. It was a forced savings account so that the American people would have to put aside a little bit, so they would not become wards of the state when they finally get around to retiring, perhaps at 65 or later. Enough said on that.

Mr. Speaker, the tax cut bill that is coming up is going to relieve senior citizens who now have to pay penalties when they go out and work while they are drawing from that savings account that they paid into for 65 years.

We are going to raise that limitation from \$14,500, which it is now, up to \$17,000 with no penalty next year. After that, \$18,500 with no penalty, and the year after that, \$26,000.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to come over here and stop all of this rhetoric and vote for the tax cut bill that is going to help every senior citizen in America.